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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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- 1. Approximately one-third of the 9,000 total population of Aldan (N 58-37, E 125-24) consists of former Vlassovites. They have been living among the natives since 1947. Although the great majority were sentenced to serve only six-year exile terms for their anti-regime activities during World War II, very few have actually been released to date. Since it is considered useless for them to appeal to the government for release from exile, most Vlassovites have become resigned to their fate. Many have married local women and now have families. Some have lost interest in every returning to their original homes, but the majority still hope to go back some day to their native lands.
- 2. Over 50 percent of the Vlassovites are Western Ukrainians who still speak their own language among themselves and tend to stay apart from other national groups: Georgians, Armenians, Kazakhs, Balts, Volga Germans. The local population dislike the Vlassovites and often refer to them as "facists and traitors". Drunken brawls between these two factions have many times developed into general free-for-alls where large groups come to each other's assistance. The Vlassovites identify themselves as "Westerners". This provides another sore point between them and the natives, who resent being classified as "Easterners".
- 3. The Vlassovite exiles enjoy a semi-prisoner status. They cannot exercise their voting franchise but must pay taxes. Although they are permitted to live privately wherever they may choose, they cannot leave the immediate town area without special permission from the military commandant. Theoretically they are permitted to bring their wives to Aldan but very few actually succeed.

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- 4. All Vlassovites carry identification documents with the classification Spatakontingent (Special Contingent) contained therein. None can ever hope to join
 the Communist Party. They are not compelled to take any job against their will,
 nor are they indefinitely frozen in their jobs. The military commandant of Aldan
 usually appoints a strong man from among the Vlassovites whose main responsibility
 consists of keeping that element under control. Appointed strongmen are generally
 feared because of their physical provess and influence with the police.
- 5. Source firmly believes that the Vlassovites of Aldan would assist any armed intervention on behalf of the West.

Chinese Nationals in Aldan

6. Chinese residents of Aldan take no part in municipal activities. They do not vote during elections, nor do they pay taxes. All seem to be openly anti-Baylet and lament the fact that they are not permitted to return to China. The local government never interferes in their affairs. In the event of trouble with the authorities, they appeal to the Chinese consulate in Khabarovsk (N 48-30, E 135-06) for protection. The Chinese originally settled in Aldan to speculate in gold; but, now that this business has become unprofitable because of government control, they engage in small retail enterprises.

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